4th Annual City of Indianapolis VEX Robotics Championship

Workforce development has long been a priority for the City of Indianapolis. Creating a climate that is attractive for businesses to retain, create or relocate jobs in our city is dependent on our ability to supply the skilled workforce employers are demanding. With job growth in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) industries in the United States expected to nearly triple by the year 2018, developing tomorrow's STEM leaders is crucial to our long-term economic stability. Robotics is a fun and effective way schools across the United States have begun to engage students from grades K-12 in learning and applying STEM skills.

In November 2015, Indianapolis will host the *4th Annual City of Indianapolis VEX Robotics Championship presented by Roche Diagnostics.* The event will be held at Bankers Life Fieldhouse with over 180 high school, middle school, and elementary school teams participating in the largest city-wide robotics competition in the country. The event has seen continual growth since its inception and has allowed over 800 Marion County students representing 130 schools to implement and participate in robotics programs while also hosting over 5,000 members of the public.

In an attempt to enhance the prospects available through STEM fields, community partners come together each year to implement a STEM Fair in collaboration with the Championship. This fair has included 30 interactive vendors focused on engaging our students and overall community, proving this truly is a city event. It is inspiring to see these STEM stakeholders invest in the students and ultimately the future of Indianapolis.

Building top-notch STEM programs that excite and inspire students to pursue career paths vital to our economy requires the support of our citizens, businesses, schools, non-profits, and military partners. I encourage you to consider how you and your organization or school can participate in or assist with both the citywide robotics competition and the efforts to further expand STEM activities in our city. In the coming months, information will be released on how schools can register a team, apply for funding, and receive professional support.

Financial support is currently being sought to fund both the event in November and the ongoing cost of a citywide robotics program. We are working with partners from TechPoint Foundation for Youth, Roche Diagnostics, USA Funds, Eli Lilly Corporate Foundation, EmployIndy, Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation, VEX Robotics, Project Lead The Way, Ivy Tech Community College and our school district partners to develop a sustainable model to ensure program success for years to come.

I am requesting that you help Indianapolis students gain valuable STEM learning experiences while putting your organization in the spotlight. Please contact Stephanie Bothun, Director of Regional Workforce Development for the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, at sbothun@cicpindiana.com for sponsorship opportunities and an overview of sponsorship levels.

Together, we can inspire more students to pursue STEM careers and create a culture that holds accomplishments in academics equal to those of our great athletes.

Best regards,

Gregory A. Ballard
Mayor
City of Indianapolis